

Those Divvy fees really add up 3

Whoa! Look at that Ventra go! 7



DECEMBER 16, 2013

★ FREE ★

A Chicago Tribune publication

Zack Bowman (left) and Tim Jennings celebrate Bowman's touchdown during Sunday's win at Cleveland. US PRESSWIRE

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# EAT

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news flash

ANTONIO PEREZ/TRIBUNE FILE

**NOTHING LIKE \$700K IN LATE FEES TO PAD THE BOTTOM LINE**

# DOLLARS AND DIVVY

## Chicago Tribune

Chicago's Divvy bicycle-sharing program took in up to \$2.5 million during its first five months, a figure driven by tourists and others who bought daily passes and racked up the majority of overtime fees, according to a trove of preliminary customer data provided by city transportation officials.

As much as \$703,500 came from late charges, which kick in when bicycles aren't returned within 30 minutes. Just a sliver of that money was generated from Divvy's clock-conscious annual members, who checked out bikes for short trips instead of hopping into taxis or riding public transit, city officials concluded.

It's not clear whether the Divvy public-

private partnership, supported by \$25 million in federal funding and \$6.25 million in local matches, is turning a profit.

A financial accounting will be conducted at year's end to determine how hundreds of promotional free daily passes and other variables will affect the final revenue figures, city officials said. The raw statistics on customer use, focusing on average revenue per trip from July through November, did not distinguish between the free passes and paying customers.

The Divvy contractor, Alta Bicycle Share, is being paid from the user fees, according to the Chicago Department of Transportation, which is overseeing Alta management.

"To the extent the system earns a profit,

the city and Alta share the profit," said Scott Kubly, managing deputy commissioner at CDOT.

The data for the five months show that most of the total Divvy charges, about \$1.6 million, were for 24-hour passes and the overtime fees associated with the passes, which city officials said were likely bought by visitors or individuals jumping on the rental bikes for "spontaneous trips."

"We are pleasantly surprised how quickly tourists have taken to Divvy," Kubly said.

"Annual members are using the bikes for short trips, as we expected," said Kubly, adding that he expects those members will each log 120 trips a year on average.

## READY FOR WINTER?

Winter Divvy riders have been posting photos and comments on social media with the hashtag #DIVVYON. Comments range from enthusiastic exclamations about the snow making their ride more scenic to resignation that the light blue bikes are their only way to work.

The roughly 131,000 daily-pass customers racked up more than \$656,600 in overtime charges (on top of about \$917,000 in fees for 24-hour passes). Annual Divvy members, on the other hand, amassed not quite \$47,000 in overtime charges, the data show.

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# Monogamy is a choice, not a duty



**Nikki Lynette**

» [redeye@tribune.com](mailto:redeye@tribune.com)  
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featuring folks like Joe Budden and Peter Gunz—and the women who love them.

The two shows couldn't be more different, but they have one thing in common: They both showcase some pretty hard-core cheating. Kerry Washington's character, Olivia Pope, is creeping with her white POTUS boss, while "Love & Hip Hop" has shown more than one person stepping out on his or her partner.

The cheating that happens in these two shows hasn't hurt their ratings at all. It actually helped! Monogamy just ain't hot in the streets. It's officially Sidepiece Season. We might say that we all want a soulmate, but why try to be exclusive when everything in the world works against it? Why do we feel obligated to be monogamous?

I had a guy who once made a point of telling me before we ever fooled around that monogamy was important to him. I hate rushing into being exclusive but I really liked him, so once we became involved I agreed to drop my extracurricular boos. After a couple months of things being less than perfect but worth hanging in there, I went to New York to work on music for a month.

When I returned to Chicago he invited me over, but I fell asleep before we could do anything sexy. He worked super early, so he was gone when I woke up. While sleepily putting my leftover food in a random CVS bag from his pantry, I found a receipt. I was about to toss it when the word "condom" caught my eye. He'd bought condoms a week after I left for New York. Two boxes. Ambitious, right?

When he returned from work and found the condom receipt on his couch, he hit my cell.



Kerry Washington as Olivia Pope in "Scandal"

He said he'd bought them for us. Nevermind that one box was a brand we don't use. He even sent a picture to show he still had all of them. But he couldn't really explain why he'd bought them knowing I'd be gone for a month. Or why he'd made a special trip just for condoms. No snacks or magazines. Just jimmy hats. Honestly, my response to Condomgate was not me asking, "Why did you do it?" It was, "Why didn't you throw away the receipt?"

When people cheat, it's not just the fact that they have a sidepiece that pisses their partners off. It's the fact that they broke the trust. If we'd never agreed to being exclusive, I'd be happily cuddling with that dude right now. And I also could have gotten friendly with the hotties I met in New York.

Clearly monogamy isn't for everyone, and pretending it's right for you can leave room for hurt. Just ask the baby-momma of Peter Gunz who learned her man was cheating—and had secretly married his sidepiece—on national TV.

Lying about being faithful causes enough drama to spice up "Love & Hip Hop," but that type of drama hurts people in real life. Perhaps the reason why many folks love "Scandal" is not because they're rooting for or against Kerry Washington's character. Maybe they're just looking for validation that not being monogamous isn't the worst thing in the world.

REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR NIKKI LYNNETTE, A CHICAGO NATIVE, IS AN INDIE RECORDING ARTIST WHOSE MUSIC APPEARS ON MTV, VH1, SHOWTIME AND MORE.

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JUSTIN FREDERICK  
PHOTOS FOR REDEYE



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# chicago



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**WEDNESDAY**  
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Yucky



The U.S. Postal Service will deliver packages in the Chicago area on the two Sundays before Christmas, officials said Friday.

JOSE M. OSORIO/TRIBUNE FILE



## A faster Ventra?

### Software upgrades improve boarding times on buses, CTA says

#### Chicago Tribune

CTA bus passengers using Ventra cards are boarding and paying their fares much more quickly since recently completed software upgrades that have reduced the need for riders to repeatedly tap the cards on reader boxes, the transit agency says.

The average time to process Ventra fares on buses now is running about 1 second, although 40 percent of taps still are taking up to 2.5 seconds to register and produce the "Go" message on Ventra screens, the CTA reported Friday.

Fare processing speed of a half-second or less is required under the almost half-billion-dollar Ventra contract that the CTA awarded to Cubic Transportation Systems.

CTA President Forrest Claypool has said

Cubic will not be paid—and the old CTA fare cards will not be phased out—until the half-second performance metric and two others having to do with customer service and equipment reliability are achieved.

"Though Cubic has met or is close to meeting most performance goals, we want to ensure that the performance remains consistent," CTA spokesman Brian Steele said.

"Once we're confident about consistent performance, we will restart the remainder of the transition process, though no timetable has yet been set," Steele said.

The original timetable called for completing the transition to Ventra by Dec. 15.

The new fare system, which also accepts contactless credit and debit cards on both the CTA and Pace suburban buses, will replace old-style magnetic stripe cards and the popular Chicago Card and Chicago Card Plus.

Some 57 percent of Ventra card taps on buses now are processed in a half-second or less, according to the CTA's Friday update.

#### NEED AN ASSIST?

The first of six meetings this month to help CTA and Pace riders transfer balances from existing fare cards to Ventra cards will be held Monday, officials said. The help is scheduled from 10 a.m.-noon at the Carter G. Woodson Library auditorium, 9525 S. Halsted St., and from 2-4 p.m. at Truman College's Novar Hall, Room 3426, 3rd floor, 1145 W. Wilson Ave.

which covered Dec. 1-10.

It marks a major improvement since late October. Customers had complained that queues to board at bus stops were often backed up during rush hours because of balky Ventra readers and that frustrated riders who re-tapped their cards were sometimes double-charged.

Cubic acknowledged the problems on both the bus and rail systems and implemented software upgrades, starting at CTA rail stations.

## 3 FOR ALL

### PRESIDENTS GET PAID

The president of the University of Chicago was the highest-paid private university president in the country in 2011, according to a survey released Sunday. Here are some of the digits that came out of the Chronicle of Higher Education's annual study.

**\$3.4 million**

**Robert Zimmer, University of Chicago** Zimmer's compensation in 2011 breaks down like this: \$918,000 in base salary; \$200,000 in bonus pay; \$454,800 in deferred compensation to be paid at a later date; \$147,452 in nontaxable benefits; and \$1.6 million in other earnings, which includes \$1.3 million that had been set aside for him in prior years.

**\$1.36 million**

**Morton Schapiro, Northwestern** Schapiro ranked No. 16 among private university presidents. About \$765,000 of his pay was base salary.

**\$829,448**

**Michael Violett, Robert Morris**

#### EXPRESS LINES

- » Two Walgreens staffers are being credited with stopping a man armed with a loaded gun who was trying to rob the store late Friday in West Town, according to police.
- » One of two men charged with attempting to rob the Loyola University cafeteria in Rogers Park was additionally charged with attacking two police officers and trying to escape a Chicago Police station holding cell on the Northwest Side, officials said. TRIBUNE



### High school shooting victim remains critical

**1** A 17-year-old Colorado high school senior shot in the head by a heavily armed classmate who stormed Arapahoe High School in suburban Denver remained in critical condition Sunday, the county sheriff said.

### Connecticut honors Sandy Hook victims

**2** From the steeped churches of Newtown, Conn., to the state Capitol in Hartford, bells chimed 26 times Saturday to remember the victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting on the one-year anniversary.

### China joins club with 'soft' moon landing

**3** China landed an unmanned spacecraft on the moon Saturday, state media reported, in the first such "soft-landing" since 1976, joining the United States and the former Soviet Union in managing to accomplish such a feat.

### 'Lawrence of Arabia' star O'Toole dies at 81

**4** Peter O'Toole, who shot to international fame in the blockbuster movie "Lawrence of Arabia," died Saturday at age 81 in London after a long illness, his agent said Sunday.

### Nationwide winter storm gets final licks in

**5** A large winter storm that dumped snow across the Midwest and East Coast swept into its final stage as it passed over New England on Sunday, with forecasters predicting a foot or more of snow in Maine.

### Kerry concerned about North Korean leader

**6** Secretary of State John Kerry described North Korea's Kim Jong Un as reckless and insecure after the execution of the leader's powerful uncle, and said Kim's actions underscored a need for a unified stand against Pyongyang's nuclear program.



The coffin of Nelson Mandela is carried to a traditional burial ground in his childhood village of Qunu, South Africa, on Sunday. GETTY IMAGES

# Mandela laid to rest

**7** **QUNU, South Africa** South Africa buried Nelson Mandela on Sunday, leaving the multi-racial democracy he founded without its living inspiration and still striving for the "Rainbow Nation" ideal of shared prosperity he had dreamed of.

The Nobel peace laureate, who was held in apartheid prisons for 27 years before emerging to preach forgiveness and reconciliation, was laid to rest at his ancestral home in Qunu after a send-off combining military pomp with the traditional rites of his Xhosa abaThembu clan.

As the coffin was lowered into the wreath-ringed grave, three army helicopters flew over bearing the South African flag on weighted cables, a poignant echo of the anti-apartheid leader's inauguration as the nation's first black president nearly two decades ago.

A battery fired a 21-gun salute, the booms reverberating around the rolling hills of the Eastern Cape, before five fighter jets flying low in formation roared over the valley.

"Yours was truly a long walk to freedom, and now you have achieved the ultimate freedom in the bosom of your maker," armed forces Chaplain Gen. Monwabisi Jamangile said at the grave site, where three of Mandela's children already lie.

Mandela died at age 95 in Johannesburg on Dec. 5, plunging his 52 million countrymen and women and millions more around the world into grief, and triggering more than a week of official memorials to one of the towering figures of the 20th century.

More than 100,000 people paid their respects in person at Mandela's lying in state at Pretoria's Union Buildings, where he was

### WHO WAS THERE?

Among the 450 mourners at the private burial ceremony were relatives, political leaders and foreign guests including Britain's Prince Charles, the Rev. Jesse Jackson and Oprah Winfrey.

sworn in as president in 1994, an event that brought the curtain down on more than three centuries of white domination.

When his body arrived on Saturday in Qunu, it was greeted by ululating locals overjoyed that Madiba, the clan name by which he was affectionately known, had "come home."

"After his long life and illness he can now rest," Victoria Ntisingo said. "His work is done."



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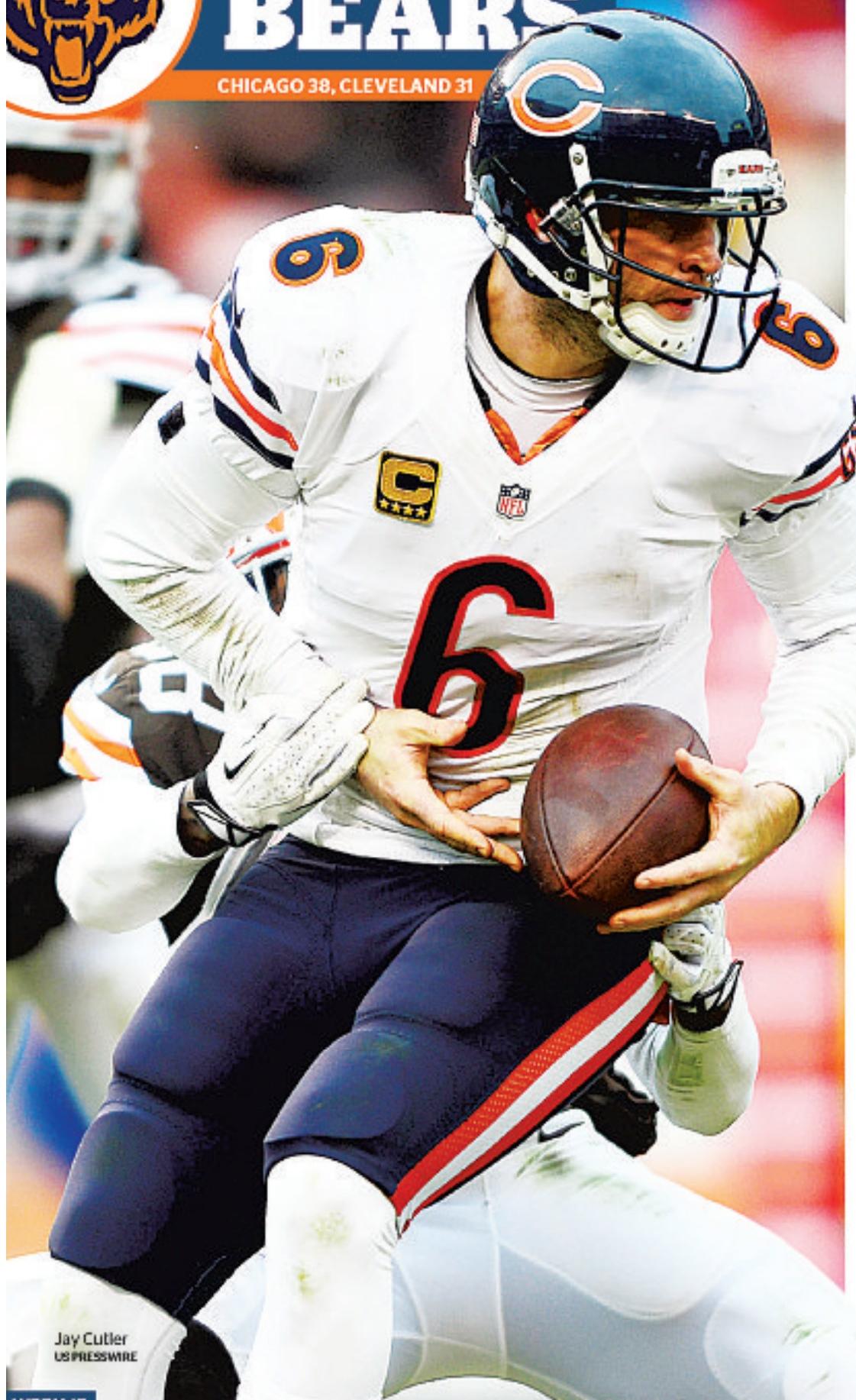
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2013 Regular Season • Week 15

# BEARS

CHICAGO 38, CLEVELAND 31

Jay Cutler  
US PRESSWIRE

## WEEK 15

SAN DIEGO (THUR) 27	ATLANTA 27	WASHINGTON 26	INDIANAPOLIS 25	HOUSTON 3	MIAMI 24	NEW ENGLAND 20	MINNESOTA 48	PHILADELPHIA 30	SEATTLE 23	NY. GIANTS 0	SAN FRANCISCO 33	TAMPA BAY 14	BUFFALO 27	JACKSONVILLE 20
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# The real Return

**Sorry, McCown—Cutler's back and keeping the Bears in the hunt for the playoffs**

## RedEye

And just like that, the Bears' quarterback debate is settled.

Ha, we couldn't even write that with a straight face, much less say or think it.

Jay Cutler did just enough in his latest comeback from injury this season, throwing for 265 yards and three touchdowns in the Bears' 38-31 win at Cleveland on Sunday. That's the good news, combined with the fact that at 8-6, the Bears are alone in first in the NFC North, pending Detroit's clash with Baltimore on Monday night.

This is the part where we point out that because the Lions own the tie-breaker, the Bears must finish with a better record than Detroit to win the division. The Bears visit Philadelphia next week before closing the regular season at home against Green Bay.

The bad news: Cutler threw two interceptions, including one that was returned for a touchdown.

Yeah, that's one more than Josh McCown in seven games this season. Expect at least another week of Team Jay vs. Team Josh.

"[Cutler] had to handle a lot this week, probably more than at any time in his career," coach Marc Trestman said after the game. "His teammates had his back the whole time. You have to be mentally tough to do what he did today; very mentally tough. Not only to get through the week, but to get through a game in harsh conditions, and throwing two picks in the first half—it says a lot about the man."

Even if some Bears are secretly biting their tongues as to whom the quarterback should be, as [espn.com](http://espn.com) reports suggest, they have to be happy with the result. Cutler said he reached out to some of his teammates this week about Trestman's decision to start him over McCown.

"I started off rusty," Cutler said. "Had some throws that were high. The guys rallied around me, they played really well, made some big-time catches, the offensive line played great."

"No one really flinched in our building, everyone kind of stuck to it. Josh was super supportive. ... [The guys] rallied behind me when we started off a little bit slow. It was fun getting back out there with them. I'm looking forward to moving on from this week."

For now, the Bears' decision to stick with Cutler appears inspired. Others were, well, closer to insane. TRIBUNE CONTRIBUTED

NFC NORTH	W	L	T
BEARS	8	6	0
Detroit	7	6	0
Green Bay	7	6	1
Minnesota	4	9	1

## WEEK 16

Chicago at Philadelphia  
7:30 p.m. Sunday, NBC

## INSPIRED

Letting Jason Campbell go after last year is working out great. The former Bears backup quarterback, now starting for Cleveland, threw a pair of ridiculously easy interceptions to Zack Bowman. One was a lollipop, the other a pick-six. Thanks, Cleveland!



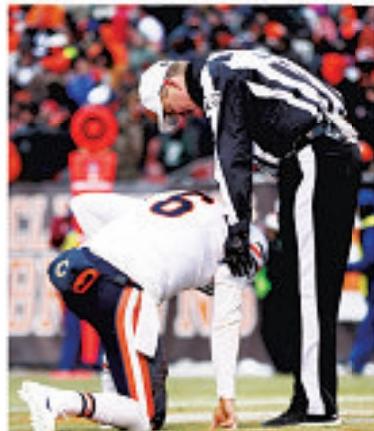


## INSPIRED

Heaving up a bomb on third down early in the fourth quarter to a double-covered Alshon Jeffery. Sometimes one of your badass receivers makes an incredible grab to tie the game—and gets a little help from a defender whose timing was bad.

**Quotable:** "I was like, there's [interception] No. 3. I thought it was just going to be floating 20 yards down the field... Alshon does what Alshon best."

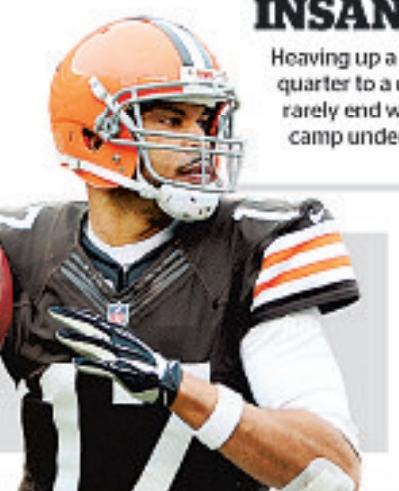
—Jay Cutler, on Jeffery's touchdown catch. Cutler was on his back when the grab was being made; he was knocked to the ground as he threw.



Jay Cutler (left) is helped up after the pass to Jeffery. CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE

## INSANE

Heaving up a bomb on third down early in the fourth quarter to a double-covered Jeffery. Throws like that rarely end well for the offense when the defender can camp under the throw.



## INSANE

Cutler opted not to wear socks during warmups despite a wind chill of 14 degrees. And he thought he was safe from fashion criticism just because he didn't wear salmon on pants or a wacky '80s getup pregame.



## INSANE

So Marshall was twice as open as Jeffery, Martellus Bennett or Matt Forte? Not holding our breath on that.

**Quotable:** "The ball in the end zone, that was on me... The second one, he just threw a terrible ball, so that's on Jay. [Laughs.]"

—Brandon Marshall, on Cutler's two interceptions Sunday



## INSPIRED

The Cutler-Marshall bromance still is in full effect. Cutler threw to his favorite receiver 13 times, seven more than any other receiver on the team.



## INSPIRED

Bears fans. With the game in hand in the final two minutes, chants of "Let's go Bears!" could be heard throughout the stadium. Good to see a little snow and 300-plus miles couldn't keep Chicago fans from making the trip east.

## INSANE

Bears fans. The temperature was below freezing in Cleveland and the wind was nasty, so you question some shirtless die-hards' reckless disregard for frostbite. To each one's own, we suppose.



## TOP DOG WEEK 15 RESULTS

Each week, RedEye's Whizzer goes paw to paw with a miniature schnauzer, Callie, to see who picks games more accurately. Here's how they fared this week:

Callie      Whizzer

**2-2 2-2**

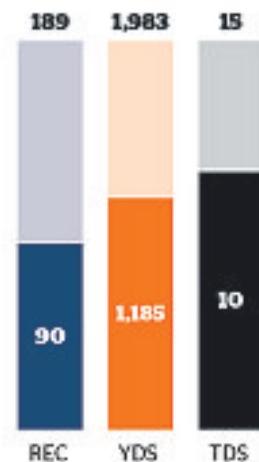
## STAT OF THE DAY

**28-2**

That's Jay Cutler's career record when compiling a 100-plus passer rating in a game. He posted a 102.2 on Sunday.

## MARSHALL METER

At the start of the season, we dissected Brandon Marshall's stats and came up with our "predictions." Let's just say it's not looking good as he'll have to have two HUGE games to reach the totals. He'll have to average 50 catches, 399 yards and 2.5 touchdowns the next two games to reach his numbers. Good luck with that.



## MONDAY'S GAME

KANSAS CITY	56	CAROLINA	30	ARIZONA	(OT) 37	GREEN BAY	37	ST. LOUIS	27	PITTSBURGH	30	BALTIMORE AT
OAKLAND	31	NY. JETS	20	TENNESSEE	34	DALLAS	36	NEW ORLEANS	16	CINCINNATI	20	DETROIT, 7:40 P.M. ESPN

**ROBO-BEARS**

The Bears are putting an awful lot of faith in a machine. Of course, if Ditka invented it, we'll withhold judgment for now.



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<b>1</b> The Bears are raving about this ARP machine. What does it do?	It stimulates something. Let's hope it stimulates the defense!	You mean HAARP, the weather controlling machine the government doesn't want you to know about? #StayWokeDawg	No no, they said AARP—buncha the defensive guys just got their membership cards.	I'm guessing it helps retired players get onto the Obamacare website.	Sends Miss Frizzle and her class aboard The Magic School Bus into an injured player's body to repair damaged tissue.
<b>2</b> The Blackhawks have chased so many opposing goal-tenders this season ...	... the record says it all, baby. I'd be nervous too if I was a goalie!	... they might be in trouble for stalking. Wait, what?	... teams are gonna start pulling their goalie before the game starts.	... they're eventually gonna find one to settle down with and marry.	Let's wait and see what happens when they face the Red Wings. Then you can go and phrase Five on Fives like this.
<b>3</b> What will former Blackhawk Jamal Mayers do now that he's retired?	B-O-L-O-G-N-A. It's his family, right? Oh wait, HHHmmmm, how about working at Dominick's? Oh shoot.	Hang out with me? Hawk his rings and buy a boat?	Sell off a few diamonds and rubies from his Stanley Cup ring per year—he'll never have to work again.	He should open a juice bar. The potential for alliteration is endless!	Find Nate Prosser and headbutt him in a dark alleyway in Minnesota.
<b>4</b> Welcome Ron Coomer to the Cubs' radio booth.	Ron, it's going to be a loooooooong season.	Coom! Coo-mahl! Coom up and see me sometime!	Welcome, Ron. You've got a lot to live up to with that name. Godspeed.	Enjoy your stay and don't mind that your chair has Kerry Wood's name on it.	Update your resume and start putting out feelers now. You'll want a new job halfway through the upcoming season.
<b>5</b> Who's your favorite for the 2014 Heisman Trophy?	Ditka. Lattner. Mini Ditka?	Jameis Winston of the ... well, you know.	Man, I don't care about THIS YEAR'S Heisman. Don't make me think about next year's!	Can I look at everyone's arrest record first?	Shique Calhoun. Learn the name, world.

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**studs&duds****MOOD SWINGS****RedEye's 2013 Stud and Dud of the Year candidates**

Another great year in Chicago sports is in the books. Also, another awful year for Chicago sports is in the books. Which means it's time to choose RedEye's Stud and Dud of the Year. As always, don't be shy about voting! **REDEYE**

**STUDS****Mike Magee, Fire**

The Chicago native almost singlehandedly cured the Fire's scoring woes, tallying 15 for Chicago and 21 for the season after starting the year in L.A. Oh yeah, he was named MLS MVP.

**Alshon Jeffery, Bears**

He's becoming one of the best receivers in the NFL. 80 receptions, 1,265 yards, seven touchdowns and counting. Not to mention clutch, acrobatic catches you have to see to believe.

**Patrick Kane, Blackhawks**

The two-time Stanley Cup champ won the Conn Smythe Trophy as the best player in the NHL playoffs. And entering Sunday, he's second in the league in points this season behind only Pittsburgh superstar Sidney Crosby.

**VOTE!**

It's up to you to decide who wins the Stud and Dud of the Year awards. Visit [redeyechicago.com/sports](http://redeyechicago.com/sports) for deets.

**DUDS****Julius Peppers, Bears**

Too many times this season have Bears fans waited for Peppers' name to be called on a big play ... and it's almost never happened. Maybe it's age, maybe it's injuries. It's definitely disappointing.

**Adam Dunn, White Sox**

Don't get Sox fans started. They'd like to overlook his .219 batting average and 189 strikeouts (third most in baseball) and instead focus on his 34 home runs and 86 RBIs, but they just can't.

**Derrick Rose, Bulls**

Too soon? Perhaps. Cynics would say hoping for the Bulls star to return is a waste of time. They could be right. Regardless, another year without No. 1 is gut-wrenching.

**The Cubs**

The most desperate franchise in sports finished this season nowhere close to competitive. Even the Wrigley Field renovations, something that should excite a lot of fans, has become tiresome thanks to endless delays.



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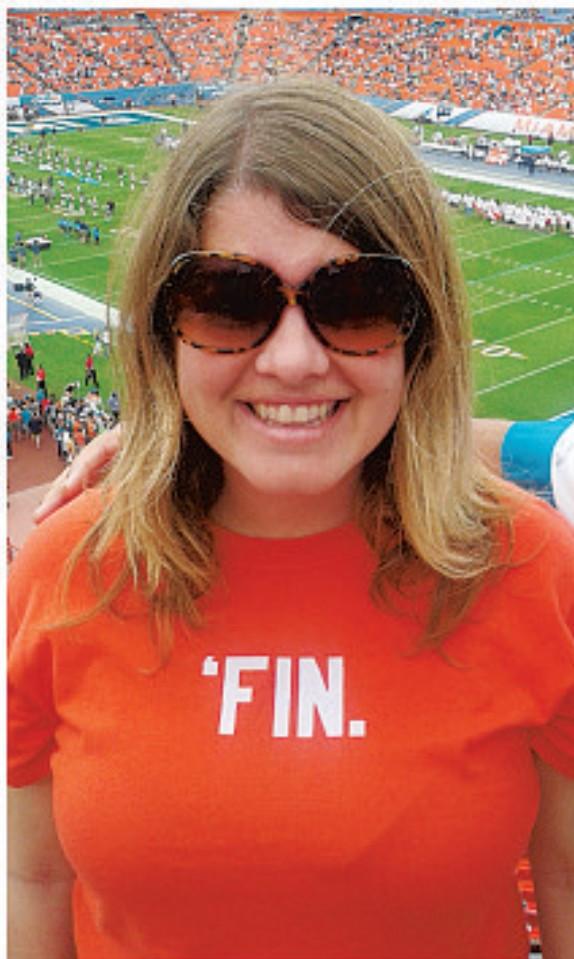
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## TRACY'S TREK

RedEye reporter Tracy Swartz was on a quest to visit all 32 NFL stadiums before she turned 32. Mission accomplished! Follow her @tracyswartz.

### MIAMI 24, NEW ENGLAND 20

Fin-ally, my last stadium: Miami. It has taken me just over three years to watch all 32 NFL teams play in their home stadiums. I can't say I saved the best for last, but Miami made this native Floridian feel right at home. There's not much shade protection in this suburban stadium—where Miami's skyline is barely visible—but considering the Chicago temperatures, I was happy to sweat 70-plus degrees.

This is a stadium that all but requires you to drive, though parking fees are reasonable and tailgating is plentiful. If you go, get the arepas: cheese sandwiched by corn pancakes. The tackiness that makes me feel at home displayed by the stadium (bright colors better suited for motels) and fans (halter tops and short jorts) made me happy to celebrate having visited all 32 NFL stadiums and 30 MLB parks. Need a new 'Fin-ish' line?

## HOT DATE WEDNESDAY

That's when guest rooms at the Hilton Chicago for the Blackhawks Convention go on sale. The event isn't until July 18-20, but given how much this city loves its hockey team—and its drinking—booking sooner rather than later might not be such a bad idea.

### Blackhawks 3, L.A. Kings 1

Chicago was able to get back on track at home Sunday after being embarrassed at Toronto the day before. The Hawks gave up a season-high seven goals in a 7-3 loss to the Maple Leafs but scored three first-period goals Sunday against the Kings to jump out to a quick lead. Patrick Sharp, Kris Versteeg and Marian Hossa all scored in the first 20 minutes to put the Hawks up 3-0. Chicago goaltender Antti Raanta stopped 21 of 22 shots on the night, not giving up a goal until 16 minutes into the third period.



Blackhawks players Marcus Kruger (left) and Ben Smith

SCOTT STRAZZANTE/Tribune

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tv



Amy Zager  
on 'Best Ink'

# Chicago represents on tattoo competition

By Courtney Jacquin | REDEYE

"Best Ink" hits close to home for Chicagoans in its third season. The city boasts contestant Amy Zager, an Uptown tattoo artist, and Pete Wentz, the show's host.

Fall Out Boy bassist Wentz is back for a second season of the show, airing at 9 p.m. Wednesdays on Oxygen. Zager is one of the 14 tattoo artists vying to win the tattoo competition in which contestants must complete a series of art and tattoo challenges judged by Joe Capobianco, Sabina Kelley and Hannah Aitchison.

The winner earns \$100,000 and a cover story in Tattoo magazine.

"Obviously I'm not a tattoo artist, so this is the closest I'll be able to be part of that experience," Wentz told RedEye.

"Tattoos and tattoo culture had been something I've been interested in forever," Wentz added, noting the opportunity to host the show "made sense" for him. "I've been getting tattoos for about the last, wow, at this point it's almost 20 years—it was semi-illegal for the first couple years of that."

During the Season 3 premiere, the artists were asked to make the seven deadly sins come to life in a flash challenge and represent their clients' past sins with classic tattoo imagery in the ink challenge.

### WHILE IN CHICAGO ...

While not on the show, Amy Zager plies her trade at the Tattoo Factory in Uptown. She hopes the show gives her the visibility to build up her client list. "Tattooing is really the perfect job for me," she said. "I feel super at home when I'm tattooing."

Zager, 26, won the first flash challenge, showing off the painting prowess she honed while earning a BFA in oil painting at the American Academy of Art in 2009.

"It was flippin' amazing," Zager said. "It was the coolest thing." The prize for the challenge was \$1,000.

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**movies**

# An Oscar for Franco?

**His 'Spring Breakers' team is making a push**

**Los Angeles Times**

The line between the real and the surreal is a thin one for James Franco. The actor's persona has become such a carefully cultivated hall of post-postmodern mirrors that it can often be hard to tell what's true and what's a put-on.

So naturally, when online award spots started appearing, promoting Franco for his role as a "gangster mystic" in Harmony Korine's outrageous indie hit "Spring Breakers," it was hard to know what to make of it. In fact, one ad plays on this confusion.

"Are you being serious?" a young woman asks, in a clip from the film. Franco's *Alien*, a garish peacock sporting cornrows and grills, responds, "What do you think?"

The answer is yes. A24, the distribution company behind "Spring Breakers," has been quietly running a best supporting actor campaign on Franco's behalf that's completely in line with the inside-out nature of the role and the movie. Whether motion picture academy voters will favor a character who in his first scene exhorts a worldview of "bikinis and big booties, y'all, that's what life is about!" is another matter.

But as critics and fans of the film have noted, Franco's work as Alien is among the best in his career, an electrifying turn that is part pimp, part prophet and pure hustler. One thing is for sure, there's nothing else on the awards circuit quite like it, no performance like Franco's, no character quite like Alien.

"Honestly, I don't know why people say,

'Really? Is this a real campaign?' " Franco said recently in L.A. "I'm an academy voter. I've been nominated for an Oscar. I'm more proud of this performance than anything that I've done."

Yet as more young film industry professionals like the 35-year-old Franco come of age and are joined each year by an incoming crop of academy invitees, films like "Spring Breakers" may come to seem less like Oscar outliers.

"I've been working in this industry for 16 years. I know when I'm a part of something that's cutting-edge," Franco said. "I want to go out and say yeah ... consider it. It's doing

what we're supposed to do; it's finding new ground and that's what art is supposed to do. So yeah ... consider this."



James Franco

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## movies



Luke Evans (left)  
in 'Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug'

# From titan to hero

**Luke Evans enters the 'Hobbit' world as a human**

**Los Angeles Times**

Welsh actor Luke Evans has a penchant for larger-than-life characters. He has played Apollo in "Clash of the Titans" and Zeus in "Immortals," and in the upcoming "Dracula Untold," he's taking on the role of Vlad Tepes, the historical warrior who inspired Bram Stoker's mythic vampire. For his role in "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug," the second installment in filmmaker Peter Jackson's latest trilogy, Evans is portraying the first human to enter the saga, Bard the Bowman.

**It must be gratifying to see people receive the new film so warmly.** It's better than the first one. Am I allowed to say that? [Laughs.] Personally just talking about my character, I liked how he's slowly unfolding, allowing the audience to get to know him a bit more. You realize there's a back story to his ancestry ... When you first meet him, you think he could be a bit of a villain. Slowly you realize this man, he just wants to look after his children, and he's willing to take on a dragon, which is

a beautiful thing. He's an amazing character.

**Is it true that you arrived in New Zealand for the film shoot without having read a script?**

Yeah, I had to trust the word of Philippa Boyens and Peter Jackson that I wasn't just in one scene. ... I knew what the role consisted of, and I knew the structure of his journey and how big he was going to be in the film as opposed to the book. The rest was left to trust and faith and belief in Peter and his idea for the role. As soon as I got off the plane, the script was there, and I got to read it and wiped my brow at the end and was very pleased and relieved.

**How do you prepare for a role like this, especially when you're not entirely sure what you'll be doing?** I had a lot of time before we started shooting the film when I got to New Zealand, so that basically was my real preparation when I got there. There's a lot to Bard. Physically, he's a strong man, but he's a bargeman, and his clothing really does play a role in who he is as a human being. He never changes his clothes because he doesn't have any other clothes, really.

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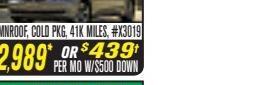
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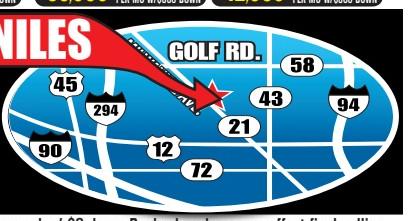
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# ROMANCE PLANET

BY JENNIFER SHEPHERD | READ MORE AT LIPSTICKMYSTIC.COM



**Sagittarius** Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
You've gone through a lot of changes recently, thanks to Mercury. Maybe you've decided to become vegan. Perhaps you're taking yoga. Or maybe you've simply chosen to let go of relationships with losers and energy vampires. Keep it up.



**Capricorn** Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
As the sun moves into your sign, you'll experience a personal New Year of sorts. You'll finally feel better about all the stuff that went down in 2013, and you'll feel less guilty about embracing pleasure and fun in 2014. You go, girl.



**Aquarius** Jan. 20-Feb. 17  
With the moon opposite your sign, you don't know what the hell is going on. It's kind of a cloudy time, not the best period for making big decisions. Don't get engaged, don't get pregnant and please, don't buy a house.



**Pisces** Feb. 19-March 20  
You know that former flame you're still secretly in love with? You'll soon learn the truth about that person. He's secretly in league with the devil. She's a multiple felon, only she never bothered to mention it. The moon will offer some insights.



**Aries** March 21-April 19  
Fire signs like you are famous for their boldness and sass. But this week, Mars could make you suddenly shy at the worst possible moment. Just when you meet a fabulously sexy someone, all you can say is, "Derp!"



**Taurus** April 20-May 20  
The sun will soon help you shift your love life into high gear. Be on the lookout for a stranger who doesn't fit your usual definition of "cute" but who might have the most adorable smile and a truly winning soul.



**Gemini** May 21-June 21  
Mars is making you schizophrenic. Your big problem is trying to adhere to dating norms like: "Mandatory exclusive relationship after six dates" or "After a year of living together, you must get married." Do your own thing.



**Cancer** June 22-July 22  
Those winter doldrums are setting in thanks to a grumpy sun moving opposite your sign. You'll create a hit list of all the former flames you'd like to see flattened by a train. You'll obsess over diary entries where you wrote, "He's definitely the one!"



**Leo** July 23-Aug. 22  
Sometimes, friends can be your worst enemies. These days you have a committee of 12 or 14 who feel they have the right to pass judgment on your romantic life. The moon says screw 'em. They're not the boss of you.



**Virgo** Aug. 23-Sept. 22  
The cosmos will smile on you for the next four weeks. After working your ass off, you're drained and bummed out. But now it's time to reap some positive karma. Expect new friendships, great business prospects and general good stuff.



**Libra** Sept. 23-Oct. 23  
You could fall madly in lust with someone you've just met. If you attend a business conference, you might discover that a client is the love of your life. If you're at home, a new neighbor could offer some sensual distractions. Thank the moon.



**Scorpio** Oct. 24-Nov. 21  
Jupiter is urging you to be more selfish, which isn't easy for a charity-minded water sign like you. Don't give up your seat to the old lady on the morning train. Refuse to remain "friends" with an ex. Take care of you.



## CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

Monday

» Krysten Ritter is 32

Tuesday

» Milla Jovovich is 38

» Manny Pacquiao is 35

Wednesday

» Brad Pitt is 50

» Katie Holmes is 35

» Christina Aguilera is 33

Thursday

» Jake Gyllenhaal is 33

» David Cook is 31

» Jonah Hill is 30

Saturday

» Samuel L. Jackson is 65

» Tom Sturridge is 28

» Ralph Fiennes is 51

» Jordin Sparks is 24

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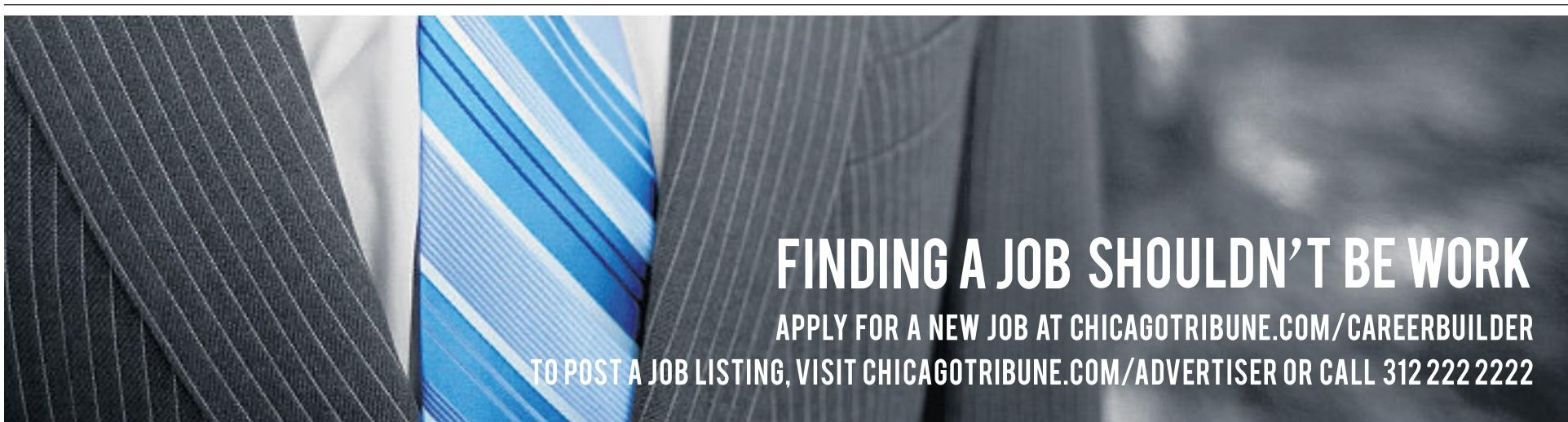
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**LA GRANGE** \$425000 60525  
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**SHOREWOOD** \$409,000 60404  
25144 WEST GLEN OAKS LANE SFH  
  
3700sqft 4br 3.5ba 30k new impts Cust silk drapes hrdwr area rugs included if offer is w/in \$5k of price Contact 815-530-2557.

## RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT CITY SOUTH

**CHICAGO** \$500 60628  
95TH ST OTHER  
Description: Large one bedroom downstairs apt. Full bath, kitchen, private entry. Quiet area close to Chicago State University. Contact (650) 996-3045.

## RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT WEST

**OAKBROOK TERRACE** \$2,000-2,750 60181  
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**WESTMONT** \$785 CB316287  
APARTMENTS UNFURNISHED  
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**PLAINFIELD** \$1797 60544  
NEAR WEBER RD SFH  
4 bds/2.5 ba, on pond. Basement, fireplace. Clean & modern w/or w/out option. 630-241-2594

## APT FOR RENT CITY NORTH

**CHICAGO** \$490-1290/MO 60659  
PETERSON/DAMEN APARTMENT  
No deposit! Studio, 1,2,&3BR. Heat inc. Close to train & bus, shops, & schools. Section 8 welcome! 847-401-4574 or 847-322-1253

## APT FOR RENT CITY NORTH

**CHICAGO** \$575-675/MO 60647  
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Room with Stove, Refrigerator, Bath & Shiny Wood Floors. Near Shopping/Transportation. Good Heat. 773-561-4970

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**CHICAGO** \$995 60634  
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## APT FOR RENT CITY SOUTH

**BURNSIDE** \$ WAIT LIST 60619  
9200 S DAUPHIN APARTMENT  
On 12/17-12/19. Dauphin Apts. will accept applications for the 1, 2, 3 BR waiting list in the Mgmt. Office from 2-4 pm. Applicants must have income at or below HUD income guidelines. Applicants must be screened & meet the tenant selection criteria. Waiting list closes 12/30

**CHICAGO** \$650 60617  
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**CHICAGO** \$CALL 60621  
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**GREATER GRAND CROSSING** \$ WAIT LIST 60619  
1108 E. 73RD APARTMENT  
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## APT FOR RENT CITY SOUTH

**SOUTH SHORE AREA** \$ WAIT LIST 60619  
6920 S. CRANDON APARTMENT  
On 12/17-12/19. 6900 S. Crandon will accept applications for the 1, 2, 3 BR waiting list in the Mgmt. Office from 2-4 pm. Applicants must have income at or below HUD income guidelines. Applicants must be screened & meet the tenant selection criteria. Waiting list closes 12/30

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5920 N KENMORE CONDO  
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ROOM FOR RENT OTHER  
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## APT FOR RENT WEST

**ADDISON** \$680 & 800 60101  
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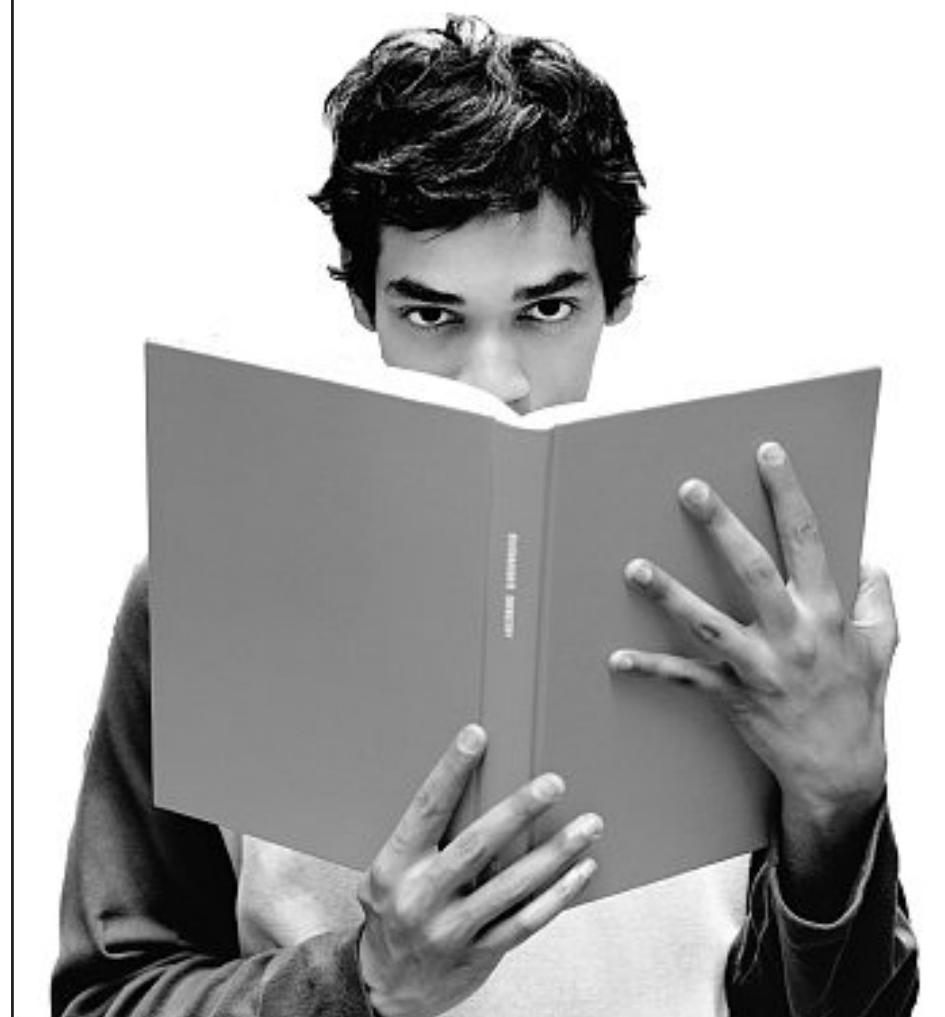
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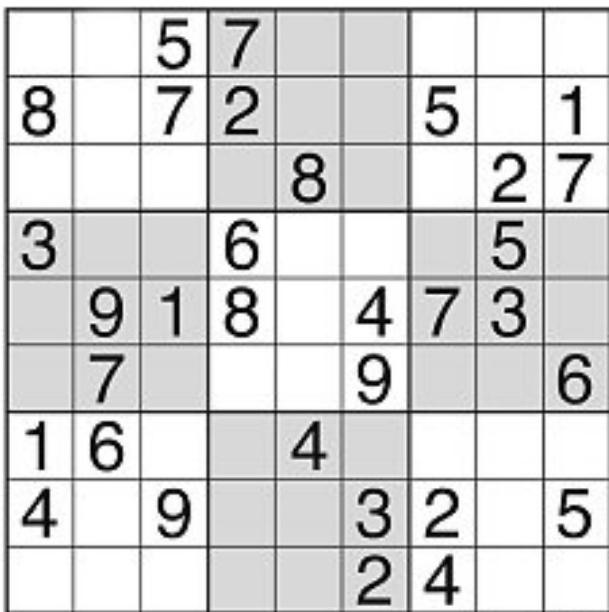
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S	Y	N	O	P	S	I	S	B	I	L	L	E
D	E	F	E	C	L	A	E	D	P	E	R	U
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S	I	T	E	E	V	E	H	A	T	E		
T	E	S	N	E	W	S	T	R	A	S		

**TODAY IN THE YEAR ...**

- 1916:** Gregory Rasputin, the monk who had wielded powerful influence over the Russian court, was killed by a group of noblemen.
- 1959:** The Second City improvisational comedy troupe staged its first performance in Chicago.
- 2000:** President-elect George W. Bush selected Colin Powell to become the nation's first black secretary of state

**ACROSS**

- 1 Policemen  
5 Terrible  
10 Get just one's feet wet  
14 Region  
15 \_ apso; small long-haired dog  
16 Declare openly  
17 What to press after typing an email  
18 Sort into groups  
20 Donkey  
21 Internal spy  
22 Deadly snake  
23 Furious  
25 Dublin's nation: abbr.  
26 Quantity  
28 Make a fist  
31 Cotton \_; carnival snack  
32 Burn with liquid  
34 Big success  
36 Aspen or alder  
37 Housetops  
38 Taxi rider  
39 Gentleman  
40 Bridal \_; pricey hotel booking  
41 Wild brawl  
42 Attack  
44 Farmlands  
45 Cheap metal  
46 In a \_ sort of  
47 Curl the upper lip and growl  
50 Row; poor part of town  
51 Negative vote  
54 Islamabad residents  
57 Meanie  
58 Heroic tale  
59 Leaning  
60 Mantilla  
61 Fender bender memento  
62 Answer  
63 Letters insisting on urgency

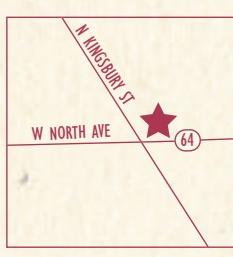
**DOWN**

- 1 Spanish house  
2 Raw metals  
3 Retirees  
4 Down in the dumps  
5 Author Louisa May\_  
6 Blue \_; largest mammal  
7 Destiny  
8 Do drugs  
9 Remain behind  
10 Prison head  
11 Very eager  
12 Sleep  
13 Water jug  
19 Rowed  
21 Lots  
24 Impolite  
25 Troubles  
26 \_up; misbehaves  
27 Callas or Shriver  
28 Lunch spot  
29 Stands up to  
30 Took on as an employee  
32 Dirt  
33 Portable bed  
35 Golf ball pegs  
37 Spoil  
38 Charges  
40 Jib & spinnaker  
41 Obey  
43 No-nonsense  
44 Spunky; not afraid to  
argue  
46 Ability  
47 Drove too fast  
48 Back of the neck  
49 Related  
50 Make a tiny cut  
52 Opera solo  
53 Sharp shrill cry  
55 Paver's goo  
56 Consumed  
57 Eggs: Lat.

**'TIS THE SEASON**

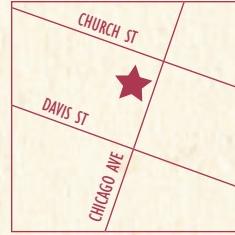
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**BIG** FINISH 2013

# whoville

Santa Claus and Mariah Carey  
GETTY IMAGES FILE

For more of Chicago's celeb news, go to [chicago.tribune.com/tuls](http://chicago.tribune.com/tuls).

WANT MORE?



## ALSO SPOTTED ...

» **Beyoncé Knowles** appeared to stick to her vegan diet while in Chicago for her concert at the United Center, visiting Karyn's Cooked in River North on Friday and Saturday.

» **Drake** DJed Thursday at Paris Club's upstairs club, Studio Paris. On hand for the DJ set was singer Miguel, who opened for Drake that night at the United Center and was also seen at The Underground, along with the Fire's Mike Magee, recently named Major League Soccer's MVP, and the White Sox's Gordon Beckham.

» **Selena Gomez** and **Demi Lovato** dined Tuesday at Cheesecake Factory in the Gold Coast. Gomez checked out The Ledge at Willis Tower's Skydeck on Wednesday. Fellow pop stars and Disney alums **Joe** and **Nick Jonas** dined Friday at Lou Malnati's Pizzeria in River North.

» **Ed Westwick** dined Thursday at Abruzzo's Italian Restaurant in Melrose Park while in Chicago filming "A Conspiracy on Jekyll Island."

» **Sophia Bush** and the Bears' **Ashlon Jeffery** dined separately Friday at Sunda. Bush caught **Samantha Ronson's** DJ set at The Underground afterward.

» The Bears' **Julius Peppers** and the Bulls' **Jimmy Butler** appeared Dec. 7 at Parliament.

# SONG SLUMP



## ABOUT LAST NIGHT

### Luis Gomez

[lgomez@tribune.com](mailto:lgomez@tribune.com)  
[@TribLuis](https://twitter.com/TribLuis)

It's the question that gets asked every holiday season: Why can't anyone come up with a original, classic Christmas song anymore?

Many have tried, including Justin Bieber, The Killers, Christina Aguilera and even Snoop Dogg. But the last artist to do it was Mariah Carey, whose song "All I Want for Christmas" came out in 1994.

I asked artists who performed at 103.5 KISS FM's Jingle Ball concert at the United Center on Monday for their take on the subject, and they too, struggled to come up with an explanation.



**Robin Thicke** believes there haven't been any recent classics simply because "nobody has made a good one."

**Flo Rida**, who years ago rapped on a "Jingle Bells" remix featuring Trey Songz and the Dixie Chicks for Gap, feels it's just



too difficult to compete with the classics. "Those records are timeless," he said.

**Travie McCoy** seemed genuinely intrigued with the question. "Nothing sticks," McCoy said of recent Christmas songs, though he does have



a soft spot for TLC's "Sleigh Ride." "It's time for a good Christmas song. Maybe I should start working on one."

**Enrique Iglesias?** He also seemed stumped. "The classics are so good, they're tough to beat," Iglesias said. "Those songs



are embedded in our brains for such a long time." Iglesias, however, likely won't throw his hat in the race. He said he has never considered writing an original Christmas song during a career that spans nearly 20 years.

## HEADS UP

Raquel Pomplun, the Playboy Playmate of the Year, is set to appear at the Hard Rock Hotel's New Year's Eve party with Playboy.

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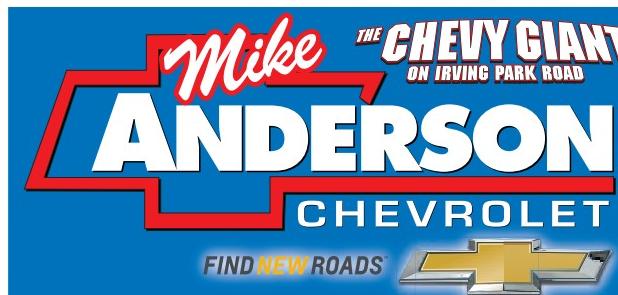
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# red hot Surprise!

"I always get my feelings hurt, even if someone's flattering you. Like, somebody tweeting, 'Call me crazy, but I think Amy Poehler's attractive.' And you're like, 'OK? Thank you?'"

—Amy Poehler on people.com, explaining her aversion to social media



**Being Beyoncé must be the best.** She's married to one of the greatest rappers ever, she has a cute kid and she's directly responsible for "Get Me Bodied." Now, she can add "drop a new album anytime I damn well please" to her repertoire. That's right, Mrs. Carter on Friday released an unexpected self-titled album exclusively on iTunes consisting of 14 tracks (with a video for EVERY song, plus three bonus clips). Guests include Jay-Z, Drake, Pharrell, the remaining members of Destiny's Child, Frank Ocean and none other than Blue Ivy Carter herself.

GETTY IMAGES FILE

## WANT MORE DIRT?

Oh, we've got dirt. Get the scoop on your favorite musicians, actors and reality TVers all day long at [redeyechicago.com](http://redeyechicago.com).



**She'll be back**  
Emilia Clarke already is the Mother of Dragons on "Game of Thrones." Now she's slated to be the mother of... well, you'll see. According to [deadline.com](#), Clarke will play Sarah Connor in the "Terminator" reboot, which apparently exists and is a terrible idea. But if they HAVE to mess with a classic, it may as well be with Daenerys (Bleeping) Targaryen, so... It's a wash.



## THE DIGIT **\$205 MILLION**

That's how much "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug" earned globally over its debut weekend, Reuters reports. About \$73.7 million of that came domestically, easily making the movie No. 1 over "Frozen."

## It's over

If you had four years in the Khloe Kardashian-Lamar Odom divorce pool, collect your winnings! Kardashian has filed for divorce, The Associated Press reports. The couple married in September of 2009 after dating for only one month... so maybe four years should be considered an accomplishment?

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